

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system, comprising:

5 a plurality of instances of an application server;

one or more clients of the application server, each configured to:

10 create a plurality of client-side Object Request Brokers (ORBs), wherein
each client-side ORB is coupled to a server-side ORB of a different
one of the plurality of application server instances;

15 select one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load
balancing scheme in response to a request to access the application
server; and

20 access a particular one of the plurality of application server instances via
the selected client-side ORB coupled to a server-side ORB of the
particular application server instance.

2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said access of a particular one of the
plurality of application server instances via the selected client-side ORB is performed
according to RMI-IIOP.

25 3. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said creation of a plurality of client-side
ORBs and said selection of one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load
balancing scheme are performed by a Context Factory class.

30 4. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the Context Factory class is a JNDI
Factory Class.

5. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein each client is further configured to:

5 select a different one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to the
 load balancing scheme in response to another request to access the
 application server; and

 access a different one of the plurality of application server instances using
 the different client-side ORB coupled to a server-side ORB of the
10 different application server instance.

6. A client system, comprising:

15 a processor; and

 a memory comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are
 executable by the processor to:

20 create a plurality of client-side Object Request Brokers (ORBs), wherein
 each client-side ORB is coupled to a server-side ORB of a different
 one of a plurality of instances of an application server;

 select one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load
25 balancing scheme in response to a request to access the application
 server; and

 access a particular one of the plurality of application server instances via
 the selected client-side ORB coupled to a server-side ORB of the
30 particular application server instance.

7. The client system as recited in claim 1, wherein said access of a particular one of the plurality of application server instances via the selected client-side ORB is performed according to RMI-IIOP.

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8. The client system as recited in claim 1, wherein said creation of a plurality of client-side ORBs and said selection of one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load balancing scheme are performed by a Context Factory class.

10 9. The client system as recited in claim 3, wherein the Context Factory class is a JNDI Factory Class.

10. The client system as recited in claim 1, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

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select a different one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to the load balancing scheme in response to another request to access the application server; and

20 access a different one of the plurality of application server instances using the different client-side ORB coupled to a server-side ORB of the different application server instance.

25 11. A system, comprising:

means for creating a plurality of client-side Object Request Brokers (ORBs), wherein each client-side ORB is coupled to a server-side ORB of a different one of a plurality of instances of an application server;

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means for selecting from the plurality of client-side ORBs to provide load balancing of the application server instances in response to requests for access to the application server.

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12. A method, comprising:

creating a plurality of client-side Object Request Brokers (ORBs) on a client system, wherein each client-side ORB is coupled to a server-side ORB of a different one of a plurality of instances of an application server;

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a client application on the client system requesting access to the application server;

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selecting one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load balancing scheme in response to the request; and

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the client application accessing a particular one of the plurality of application server instances via the selected client-side ORB coupled to a server-side ORB of the particular application server instance.

13. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said accessing a particular one of the plurality of application server instances via the selected client-side ORB is performed according to RMI-IIOP.

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14. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said creating a plurality of client-side ORBs and said selecting one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load balancing scheme in response to the request are performed by a Context Factory class.

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15. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the Context Factory class is a JNDI

Factory Class.

16. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

5 the client application requesting another access to the application server;

selecting a different one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to the load
balancing scheme in response to the other request; and

10 the client application accessing a different one of the plurality of application
server instances using the different client-side ORB coupled to a server-
side ORB of the different application server instance.

15 17. A computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein the
program instructions are configured to implement:

creating a plurality of client-side Object Request Brokers (ORBs) on a client
system, wherein each client-side ORB is coupled to a server-side ORB of a
20 different one of a plurality of instances of an application server;

receiving a request from a client application for access to the application server;

25 selecting one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load balancing
scheme in response to the request; and

the client application accessing a particular one of the plurality of application
server instances via the selected client-side ORB coupled to a server-side
ORB of the particular application server instance.

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18. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 1, wherein said accessing a particular one of the plurality of application server instances via the selected client-side ORB is performed according to RMI-IIOP.

5 19. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 1, wherein said creating a plurality of client-side ORBs and said selecting one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to a load balancing scheme in response to the request are performed by a Context Factory class.

10 20. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 3, wherein the Context Factory class is a JNDI Factory Class.

21. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the client is further configured to:

15 receiving another request from the client application for access to the application server;

20 selecting a different one of the plurality of client-side ORBs according to the load balancing scheme in response to the other request; and

the client application accessing a different one of the plurality of application server instances using the different client-side ORB coupled to a server-side ORB of the different application server instance.

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